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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W: JOHN J. SULLIVAN

FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EFFORTS TO RETURN TO THE U.S. WHAT MAY BE THE BODY OF JOHN J. SULLIVAN:

1. FRIDAY, JAN. 14, 1983: EMBASSY SENT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASKING GOES ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING THE REMAINS OF A BODY DISCOVERED IN NUEVO CUSCATLAN IN JULY 1982 TO THE U.S. FOR A FORENSIC EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE REMAINS WERE THOSE OF JOHN SULLIVAN, MISSING AMERICAN JOURNALIST.

2. WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19, 1983: CONGRESSMAN TORRICELLI'S ADVANCE MAN, JAMES FOX, ARRIVED IN COUNTRY AND MET WITH CONOFF TO DISCUSS SULLIVAN'S CASE. CONOFF INFORMED FOX THAT NOTE HAD GONE FORWARD ON 1/14 AND WE WERE WAITING FOR GOES RESPONSE. FOX ASKED WHO IN THE GOES CONG. TORRICELLI COULD MEET WITH TO DISCUSS EMBASSY'S REQUEST TO SHIP BODY TO U.S. FOX INDICATED TORRICELLI WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO SEE M.O.D. GARCIA AND F.M. CHAVEZ MENA. CONOFF SUGGESTED TORRICELLI SEE PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

3. THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 1983: CONGRESSMAN TORRICELLI ARRIVED IN COUNTRY AND HE AND CHARGE MET WITH DEFMIN GARCIA. TORRICELLI TOLD THE DEFMIN THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO CERTIFICATION BUT COULD NOT DO SO WHILE THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE FAMILY OF JOHN SULLIVAN'S REQUEST THAT THE BODY WHICH WAS BELIEVED TO BE JOHN SULLIVAN BE RETURNED FOR EXAMINATION IN THE U.S. HE DESCRIBED THE EXTENSIVE AND UNIQUE EXAMINATIONS WHICH WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT THE SPECIALIZED CENTER IN NEW YORK TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE CADAVER. GENERAL GARCIA PROMISED TO DO ALL HE COULD TO HELP WHILE NOTING THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT UNDER HIS JURISDICTION. HE AGREED TO CALL THE JUDGE CONCERNED TO URGE A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. CONGRESSMAN TORRICELLI AGREED THAT IF THE BODY WERE NOT THAT OF JOHN SULLIVAN IT WOULD BE RETURNED TO EL SALVADOR, EVEN IF HE HAD TO MAKE THE PAYMENT HIMSELF.

4. 1/20/83: CONOFF SUPPLIED COL. AUERBACH OF DEFENSE MINISTRY WITH NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF JUDGE IN CHARGE OF CASE (JUEZ SEGUNDO DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA, SANTA TECLA, FRANCISCO RAFAEL GUERRERO) SO MOD GARCIA COULD PERSONALLY CALL AND LEND HIS INFLUENCE TO CASE.

5. 1/20/83: CONOFF ACCOMPANIED CONG. TORRICELLI AND STAFFERS LATER THAT AFTERNOON TO NUEVO CUSCATLAN TO VIEW ORIGINAL BURIAL SITE OF REMAINS.

6. 1/20/83: CHARGE ADVISED TORRICELLI THAT ON THE BASIS OF PRELIMINARY CONTACTS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A DETAILED WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE NECESSITY FOR CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN SENDING A FORENSIC EXPERT TO EL SALVADOR. CONGRESSMAN TORRICELLI PROVIDED SUCH A DOCUMENT, AND COPIES OF IT WERE LEFT WITH PARTICIPANTS IN ALL SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. TEXT SUPPLIED SEPTEL.

7. FRIDAY, JAN. 21, 1983: CHARGE AND CONOFF ACCOMPANIED CONG. TORRICELLI TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT, ARTURO ZELEDON CASTRILLO. CONG. TORRICELLI ASKED PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT'S ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING LEGAL OBSTACLES THAT IMPEDED SHIPMENT OF NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS TO U.S. CONOFF EXPLAINED THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT UNDER SALVADORAN LAW A JUDGE CAN DO WHAT HE OR SHE CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE IDENTITY OF A CORPSE. IT WAS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THAT SALVADORAN LAW PROHIBITS THE SHIPMENT OF UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY. IN THE PARTICULAR CASE, THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HOPE TO CONCLUSIVELY IDENTIFY THIS BODY IS TO SHIP IT TO THE U.S. FOR A VERY COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC EXAMINATION. ZELEDON CASTILLO SAID LAW APPEARS IN THIS CASE TO PUT THE JUDGE IN A BIND AND HE INDICATED HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD SO A POSITIVE DECISION COULD BE REACHED ENABLING US TO SHIP REMAINS TO U.S.

8. 1/21/83: DCM AND CONOFF ACCOMPANIED CONG. TORRICELLI TO OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MARIO ADALBERTO RIVERA. TORRICELLI AGAIN APPEALED FOR GOES ASSISTANCE IN HAVING REMAINS SHIPPED TO U.S. RIVERA SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP. HE SAID HE WOULD ORDER A NEW DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS AND TALK TO CONTACTS IN THE HEALTH MINISTRY CONCERNING HEALTH PERMITS THAT WILL BE NECESSARY IF BODY IS SHIPPED.

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advised Dave Ingoe of this on Jan 25 at 5:20

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9. 1/21/83: TORRICELLI, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, VISITED FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVEZ MENA AND ENLISTED HIS SUPPORT (CHARGE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER GOMEZ VIDES PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE SOLUTION OUTLINED IN THE TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL). CHAVEZ MENA AGREED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AND SAID HE WAS SURE A SOLUTION COULD BE ARRANGED ALONG THE LINES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. HE WAS SUFFICIENTLY CONFIDENT AS TO AUTHORIZE TORRICELLI TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE AND THAT A FAVORABLE OUTCOME WAS LIKELY. HE URGED THE CONGRESSMAN, HOWEVER, TO BE CAUTIOUS IN MAKING STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE THE LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL THICKET FACING THE SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES. HE AGREED TO FOLLOW UP ON PROGRESS WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON JANUARY 24.

10. SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 1983: CONOFF SPOKE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RIVERA AND INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A DISINTERMENT DURING WEEKEND. RIVERA INDICATED THAT SUPREME COURT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF WORKING OUT SOME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT CONCERNING REMAINS AND HE WAS WAITING ON THIS BEFORE ORDERING A DISINTERMENT. CONOFF ASKED THAT HE BE ADVISED BEFORE THE REMAINS WERE DISINTERRED SO HE COULD WITNESS.

11. MONDAY, JAN. 24, 1983: ATTORNEY GENERAL RIVERA CALLED CONOFF AND SAID THAT HIS OFFICE COULD ONLY ORDER A DISINTERMENT AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER BODY COULD BE SHIPPED TO U.S. WAS UP TO SUPREME COURT.

12. 1/24/83: DIPLOMATIC NOTE RECEIVED FROM FONMIN INDICATING OUR NOTE WAS SENT TO SUPREME COURT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR RESOLUTION ON 1/20/83.

13. 1/24/83: CONOFF SPOKE TO JUDGE GUERRERO ABOUT CASE. GUERRERO INDICATED MATTER IS PENDING WITH SUPREME COURT AND BODY WAS STILL BURIED. HE ADVISED HE WOULD CONTACT US AS SOON AS HE HEARD SOMETHING.

14. 1/24/83: DCM ADVISED CONG. TORRICELLI'S OFFICE OF STATUS AS OF COB.
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